



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Pesticide classes to assist Spanish-speaking labor force obtain licenses

OLYMPIA – In cooperation with Washington State University Cooperative Extension, the state Department of Agriculture is conducting two classes for Spanish-speaking persons who work with pesticides. The first is a one-week pesticide training class in Rochester and the second class involves four hours of re-certification training in Olympia. Both classes take place the last week of April.

Classes will be led by Jorge Lobos, a bilingual pesticide specialist from the Department of Agriculture's Yakima office. The training is designed to provide Spanish-speaking workers with the information necessary for applying pesticides in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

The first class provides training to help individuals prepare for an exam required by state law to become a licensed pesticide applicator. The class will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 22 through April 26 at Rochester High School, 19800 Carper Road in Rochester.

Individuals who complete the training and want to become licensed may take the exam on Friday, April 26 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., according to Don Tapio, WSU area extension agent.

"Those who take the class should be able to successfully complete the WSDA licensing exam on April 26," said Paul Figueroa, a department pesticide specialist in Olympia. Figueroa noted the class will benefit workers applying pesticides in the forestry, nursery, Christmas tree and other agricultural areas. Others benefiting would be applicators doing roadside maintenance or working in industrial areas.

There is no cost for the training class, but there is a \$25 fee to take the private applicator exam or a \$50 fee to take the commercial applicator exam. To register, call Don Tapio, Washington State University, at (360) 482-2934 or e-mail Tapio at tapiod@wsu.edu and ask for the license training class for April 22-26.

"There are no questions on the test that are not covered in the manual," Tapio said. The manual can be purchased for \$9 plus shipping and tax by calling WSU's bulletin office at (800) 723-1763. Ask for manual MISC 0126S. The manual can be purchased the first day of class for \$10.

Re-certification training in Olympia

The second training opportunity is a four-hour pesticide re-certification class for Spanish-speaking workers. The class will provide tips on weed identification, safety equipment, preventing spray drift, and a discussion of laws

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and rules for safe pesticide use. Attendees will be awarded four re-certification credits to help maintain their license.

The class will be held from 8 a.m. to noon April 26 in Rooms 175 A & B of the Natural Resources Bldg., 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia. There is no cost for the re-certification training, but participants should register by calling Don Tapio, Washington State University, at (360) 482-2934 or via e-mail at tapiod@wsu.edu.

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